

July 22, 1998

**Senate Minority Excel At "Doing Nothing"**

## Obstruction Reaches Historic High in Senate

During the four years that Democrats last controlled the Senate (1991-1994), the combined number of cloture petitions they filed on legislative items at this point each session (i.e., as of July 22 of each of the four years) totaled 54.

During the last four years Republicans have controlled the Senate, their cloture filings on legislative items have increased 70 percent (to 92 petitions as of July 22). Ironically, now that the Democrats' practice of obstruction and delay has made Senate history through the sheer accumulation of cloture petitions, Democrats have begun to complain about a lack of progress in the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress. Progress has been made of course, but as the figures below indicate, it has been against an unprecedented level of obstruction and delay.

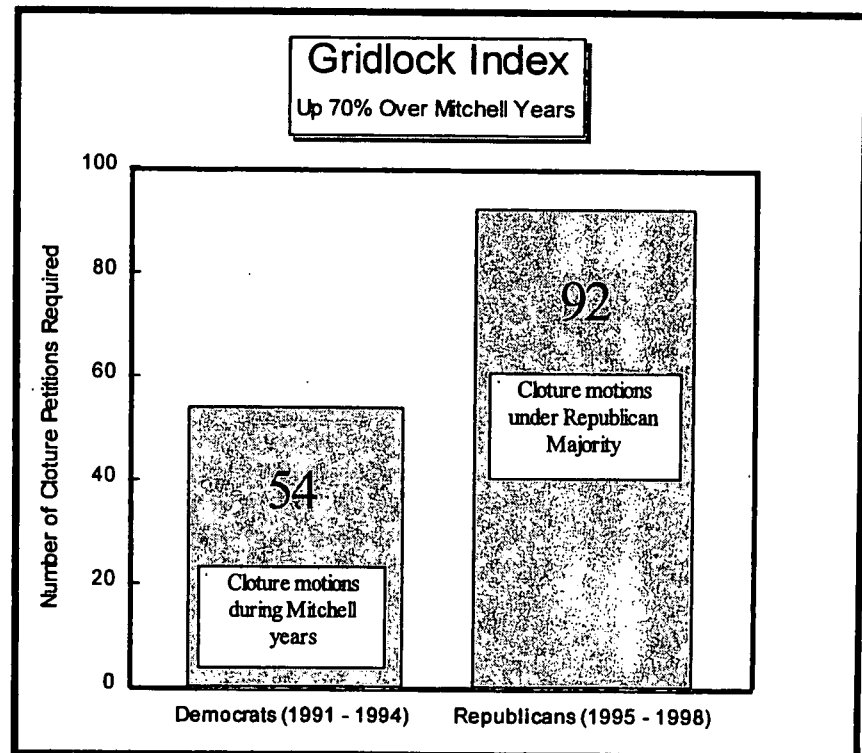
### Gridlock Index — So Far, Up 70 Percent Over Mitchell Years

***Cloture Filed By Democrats  
During Mitchell Years  
(As of July 22 of each year)***

1991.....10 petitions filed  
1992.....14 petitions filed  
1993.....17 petitions filed  
1994.....13 petitions filed  
**Total.....54 petitions filed**

***Cloture Filed By Republican  
Majority  
(As of July 22 of each year)***

1995.....28 petitions filed  
1996.....35 petitions filed  
1997.....12 petitions filed  
1998.....17 petitions filed  
**Total.....92 petitions filed**



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